

The President's Daily Brief

30 September 1971

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 September 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

An eleventh-hour decision to cancel the National Day banquet suggests that the current political uncertainties in China remain unresolved. (Page 1)

Soviets

(Page 2)

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Soviet leaders again urge Mrs. Gandhi to act cautiously in dealing with the tense situation on the subcontinent. (Page 3)

Japan

(Page 4)

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The Cambodian Government may not renew the National Assembly's mandate when it expires next month. (Page 5)

Argentina

(Page 6)

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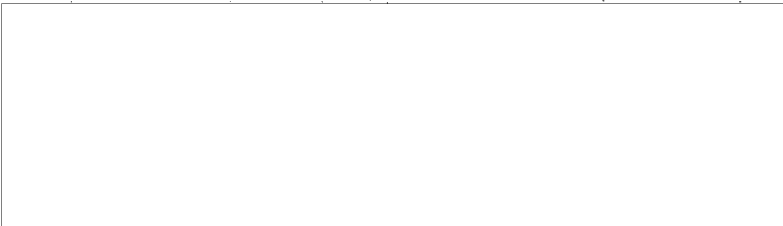
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COMMUNIST CHINA

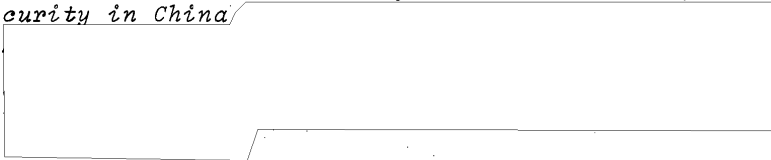
An eleventh-hour decision to cancel tonight's banquet (traditionally held on the eve of National Day) suggests that the current political uncertainties are unresolved.

The thesis that the prolonged power struggle between moderate and radical forces on the politburo has produced fractures within the leadership is being reinforced by Jack Chen, an "unofficial" publicist of Peking's line in Hong Kong. According to the US Consulate General, Chen is advising Western journalists to focus on the possibility of leadership changes as the cause for the unusual developments in China rather than on speculation about death or illness at the top.

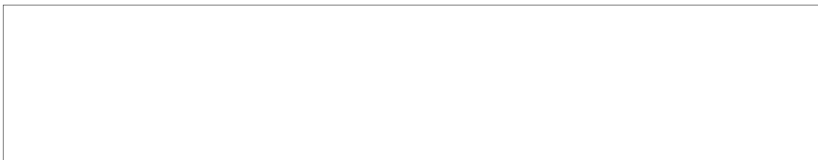


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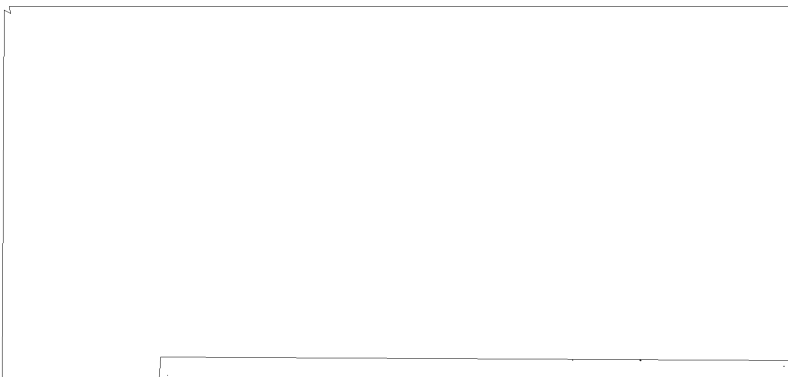
There are no indications of a deterioration of security in China



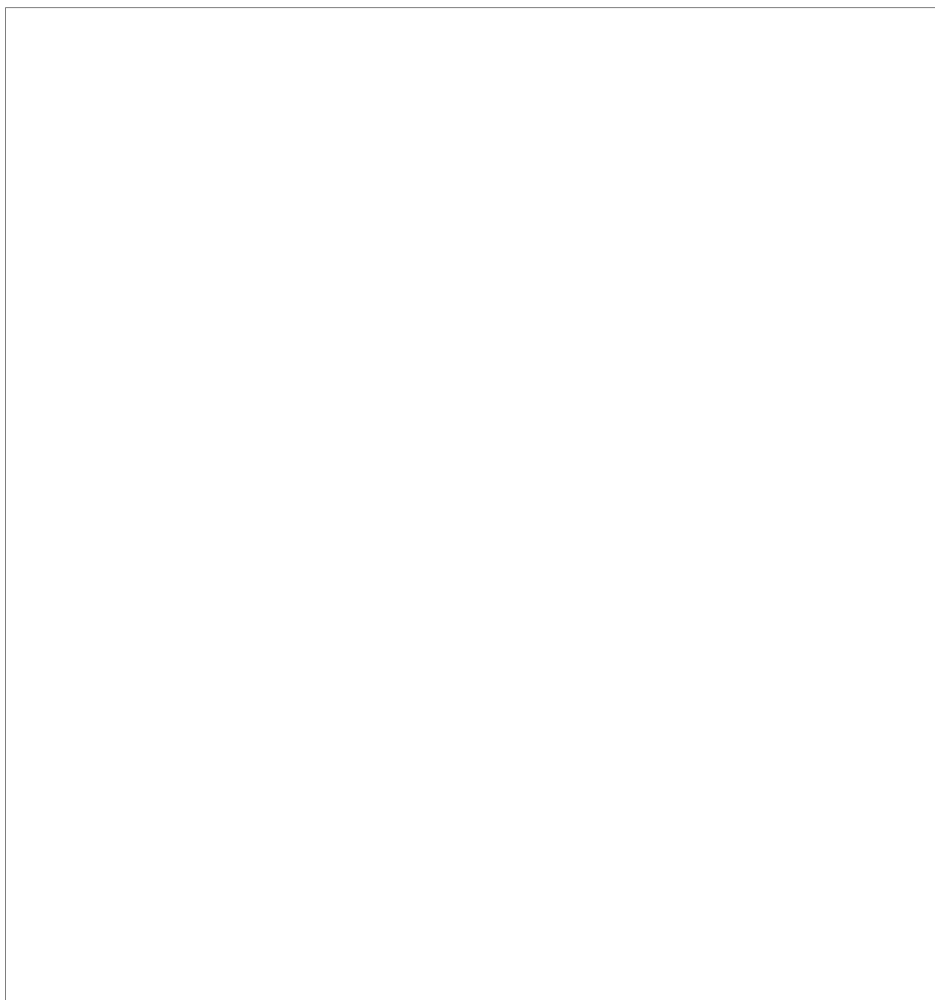
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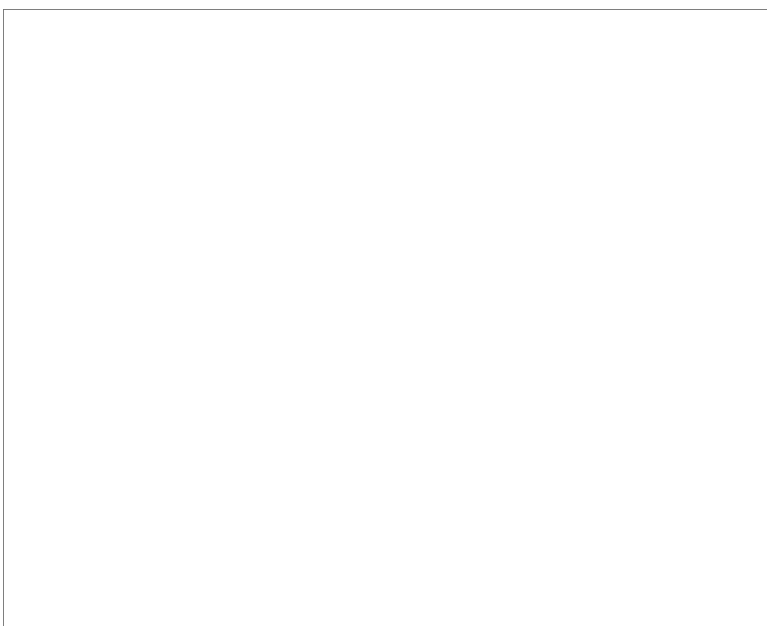
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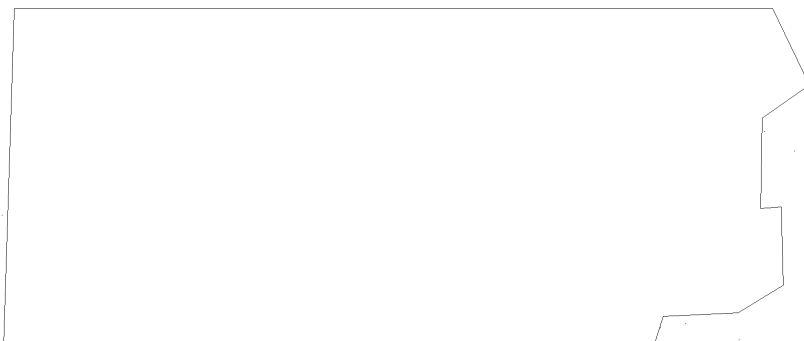
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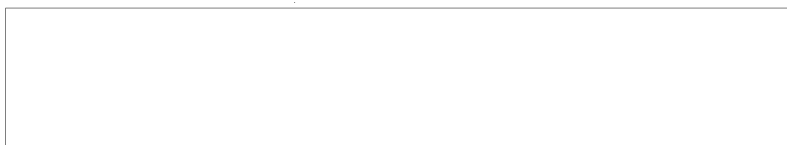
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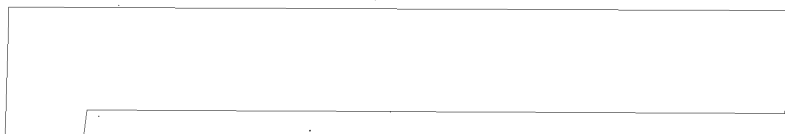
USSR



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USSR-INDIA

The key message of Soviet leaders to Mrs. Gandhi during talks in Moscow on 27-29 September was that she act with restraint in dealing with the tense situation on the subcontinent. Kosygin's luncheon speech and the final communiqué both indicate the Soviets, although taking the Indian side, clearly have not abandoned their policy of trying to prevent another Indo-Pakistani war. Mrs. Gandhi, for her part, reiterated India's opposition to war as a means of resolving the refugee problem and pleaded for concerted international assistance to help India cope with the influx. She went on, however, to remind the Soviet leaders that "peace cannot be obtained by waiting and hoping."

The communiqué issued at the end of the visit featured a joint Soviet-Indian "demand" that the West Pakistanis take "urgent measures to reach a political solution" to the problem with East Bengal.

The language of the demand is not much different from the appeal made to Yahya by President Podgorny last April and hence must strike the Indians as old hat.

Another important topic likely to have been taken up during Mrs. Gandhi's visit is China. Just prior to Mrs. Gandhi's departure from New Delhi, Moscow sent a special envoy to New Delhi to discuss future Soviet and Indian strategy at the UN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Moscow is interested in counting on India's cooperation against China when Peking enters the UN.

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JAPAN

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CAMBODIA

Sirik Matak has told Ambassador Swank that the government is thinking of doing without the National Assembly. Matak said the assembly's mandate may not be renewed after it expires in mid-October because the executive branch is tired of the legislature's opposition to its policies, concerned about its widespread unpopularity, and fed up with the corruption of its members. Matak said the government could rule indefinitely by fiat by declaring a state of national emergency. The assembly's future will be raised soon with chief of state Cheng Heng. He has the sole authority for prolonging its mandate.

The military establishment appears to be supporting the move to dismiss the assembly, and Lon Nol no doubt shares Matak's views.

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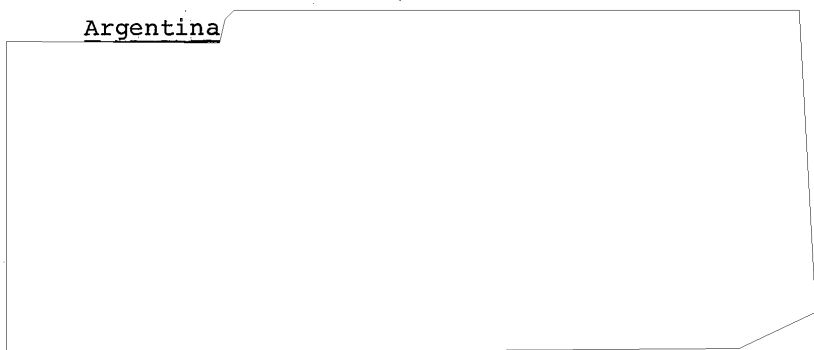
Unless the government makes fresh promises of early elections or other steps to renew its mandate, an assembly dismissal could alienate political reformists who viewed Sihanouk's ouster as paving the way for more representative government. Widespread popular opposition to dismissal is not thought likely, however.

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NOTE

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